

The true description of two monstrous children,

lawfully begotten betwene George Steuens and Margerie his wyfe, and borne in the parish of Swanburne in Buckyngham shyre, the 11th. of Aprill. Anno Domini. 1566. the two children hauing both their beltes fast toynd together, and embracyng one an other with their armes : which children wer both a lyue by the space of half an hower, and were baptizid, and named the one John, and the other Joan.



Jread how offigne land was fraught
for their most filthy life,
With monstrosous shapnes, confuzedly
that therin wer full rife.
CBut England now pursues their byle
and detestable path,
Embracyng eke all mischies great
that moves Gods myghtie wrath.
CAs these unnaturall shapnes & formes,
thus brought forth in our dayes:
Are tokens true and manifest,
how God by dyuers wayes:
Doth syre vs to amendment of
our byle and cankered lyse;
Whiche to much abused is,
in man, in chylde, and wyfe.
CWe wallow so in filthe sin,
and naught at all regarde:
Nor wyll not feare the threats of God
till we for just rewarde:
Be overhelmed withmischies great,
which ready bent for vs
Full long a go decreed wer,
as Scriptures doth discus.
CBoth tender babes & eke brute beastes,
in shape disfoured bē:
Full manie wayes he plagues the earth,
(as dayly we may see)
CThus myghtie loue, to pearce our harts
these tokens straunge doth send,
To call vs from our filthie lyse
our wicked wayes t'amend.

And thus by these two children here,
fozwarnes both man and wyfe:
How both estates ought to bewayle,
their bile and wretched lyse.
CFor sure we all may be agast,
to see these shapnes vnyknd:
And treblyng feare may pearce our harts
our God to haue in mynd.
CFor yf we printed in our brest,
these signes and tokens straunge:
Wold make vs from our sinnes to shrike
our liues a new to chaunge.
CBut some proude boastyng pharise,
the parents wyll detect:
And iudge with heapes of vglie vice
their liues to be infect.
CNo no, but lessons for vs all,
which dayly doe offend:
Pea more perhaps, then hath the friends,
whom God this birth did lend.
CFor yf you wyll with single eye,
note well and view the fete:
And marke our Sauaviours aunswere eke,
that thereto is annext:
There his disciples as ked him,
to know therein his mynd:
Yf greater wer the parents sinnes,
or his that was borne blynd.

But to the end Gods glorie great,
and miracles diuine:
Night on the earth apparant be,
his woakes for to desine.
CHuch lyke eramples moued me,
in these forgetfull dayes:
To rue our state that vs a mong,
vice beares such swipes and swayes.
CWherein the godnesse great of God
we way and set so light:
By such eramples callyng vs,
from sin both day and night.
CWhere we doe runne at random wyde,
our selues flatteryng stylle:
And blazynge others faults and crimes,
yet we our selues most yll.
CBut if we doe consider right,
and in even balauance way:
The ruine great of hartie loue,
among vs at this day:
And well behyld with inward eyes,
th'embracyng of these twinnis:
That God by them vphraides vs for
our false disembylyng sinnes.
CWe would with minime repent
our former passed yeares,
Bewaylyng eke our secret sinnes
in sacke cloth and in teares.
CTherefore in time amend your state,
and call to God for grace:
Bewayle your former lyse and sinnes,
while you haue time and space.

CFINIS. Q. John Mellys Nor.

CImprinted at London by Alexander Lacy, for William Lewes: dwellyng in Cow lane
aboue Holboone cundit, ouer against the signe of the plough.